Oritz, Fernando: Los Instrumentos De La Musica Afrocubana 248
Padmore, George: The Gold Coast Revolution 53
Quarles, Benjamin: The Negro in the Civil War 113
Tindall, George B.: South Carolina Negroes 311
Upthegrove, Campbell L.: Empire by Mandate 313
Wiener, Norbert: Ex-Prodigy 58
Williams, Robin, & Margaret Ryan (Eds.): Schools in Transition 612

MISCELLANEOUS

ALONG THE NAACP BATTLEFRONT

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES AND YOUTH COUNCILS

37-44; 91-101; 166-173; 230-240; 292-300; 358-368; 431-435; 491-500; 555-561; 618-628.
45th Annual NAACP Conference 421

GOOD NEWS

36, 102, 141, 208, 279, 350, 486, 542, 603.

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL NEWS

45-52; 103-111; 176-182; 241-246; 301-309; 369-378; 439-445; 501-509; 565-572; 631-637.

LOOKING AND LISTENING

25-31; 151-157; 221-223; 285-286; 489-490; 552-554; 605-607.

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VIRGINIA CONVENTION

(*Continued from page* 617)

One significant event at the conference was the taking out of a life membership in the NAACP by the Grand Lodge of Masons of Virginia. The $500 check for membership was presented to W. Lester Banks, state executive secretary, at the freedom rally on Sunday, by M. Conrad Martin, Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer, on behalf of W. L. Ransome, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Lodge of Masons of Virginia (Prince Hall affiliation).

Dr. Ransome has not only distinguished himself in Masonic circles, but he has given astute leadership in the religious, educational, and civic fields for more than twenty-five years. He is pastor of the First Baptist Church, South Richmond, and president of the Richmond Civic Council.

Mr. Martin has served as Right Grand Treasurer for twenty-seven years. He is a native of Danville, Virginia, and has been an official of the First State Bank (formerly the Danville Savings Bank and Trust Company) for thirty-five years.

Besides this tangible evidence of faith in the NAACP program, the Grand Lodge of Virginia has, during the past three years, contributed nearly $3,000 to the NAACP Legal, Educational and Defense Fund, Inc. That the Grand Lodge places a high value on the education of youth is shown by the more than $5,000 it has paid in scholarships to college of Virginia for children whose parents are Masonic members.